



City of Rochester

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Lovely A. Warren
Mayor

March 8, 2019

Mr. Daniel G. Lowengard
Superintendent
Rochester City School District
131 West Broad Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Superintendent Lowengard:

As you and I discussed at our recent meeting, as you allocate the City's Maintenance of Effort contribution to the City School District's 2019 – 2020 Budget, please make adequate provision for implementation of a community schools framework for the following schools : (i) eleven RCSD schools have already committed to adopting a community schools model, Schools #3, #8, #9, #17, #22, #33, #41, #45, East High School, Monroe High School, and the Douglass Campus of Northeast High School, and (ii) the following schools recently placed in Receivership by the State Department of Education, Schools #10, #16, #19, #28, Wilson Foundation, RIA at Jefferson and the Franklin Campus (including Integrated Arts and Technology and Vanguard Collegiate).

It is imperative that the foregoing schools be designated as "community schools," and that we implement a collaborative leadership structure for each and provide the financial resources to accomplish this undertaking. This will give our students in these challenged schools the best chance for success moving forward.

Components of the community schools model for each such school should include:

- Rigorous Instruction & High Expectations
- Extended Learning Time and/or Out of School Time
- Early Childhood Education
- Leadership Opportunities and Partnerships with Parents and Families
- Adult Education and Workforce Development
- Health and Mental Health Services
- Social Services
- Youth Development

To accomplish these goals, your Budget should outline adequate provision for each community school to have a Site Coordinator which will be supported by a common Intermediary, which shall provide direct services and coordinate the services of necessary partners. The Principal, the Site Coordinator along with the expertise of the Intermediary will guide the needs assessment processes (e.g., community engagement team work) to ensure that each community school adopts an operating system



responsive to the school's stated needs and priorities. The Intermediary shall be jointly chosen by the School District and the City of Rochester through a joint RFP process.

The additional budget amount shall be added to the current Budget allocations for each school including the various levels of partner funding sources respecting these community schools, the 2019 – 2020 RCSD Budget allocation for each community school should include the following items per school:

EXPENSE	ESTIMATED, AVERAGE COST PER SCHOOL YEAR
Site Coordinator Salary and Benefits	\$130,000
Intermediary Support per school	\$50,000
Partner Agencies	\$300,000
Extended Learning Time (longer school day)	\$250,000
Site-Based Priorities (funding to implement needs assessment recommendations, e.g., neighborhood enrollment)	+/- \$100,000, dependent on recommendations

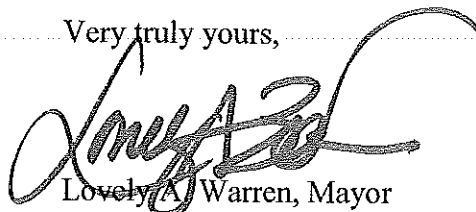
That is approximately an additional \$830,000 per school, multiplied by the 19 community schools, equals an allocation of an additional \$15,770,000 for community schools that shall be included in your 2019 - 2020 Budget at the time presented to City Council.

Please also specify in your Budget the source of payment of community school costs associated with the other core elements (e.g., health services, adult education, social services) usually covered by external partners as part of their core work, including those funded by non-School District sources such as Medicaid.

We also require that the sum of \$250,000 from the City MOE be allocated in your 2019-2020 Budget to the Citywide k-3 Accelerated Reading Program, including summer Literacy Aides. Studies have demonstrated that reading by third grade is imperative to long-term academic success so I would like to see this program implemented on a citywide basis for all District schools kindergarten through third grade. We understand that these allocations will require reconciliation with other portions of the \$119,100,000 MOE annual contribution from the City to the School District. We will leave distributing the balance of our MOE contribution to your discretion.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Lovely A. Warren, Mayor